SCAQMD Suggested Changes for the Proposed California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms

1. Verification for Greenhouse Gas Offsets

Add § 95979(g). Specific Requirements for Air Quality Management Districts and Air Pollution Control Districts.

- (1) If an air district has provided or is providing any services listed in section 95979 (b)(2) as part of its regulatory duties, those services do not constitute non-verification services or a potential for high conflict of interest for purposes of this subarticle;
- (2) Before providing offset verification services, an air district must submit a self-evaluation pursuant to 95979 (e) to the Offset Project Operator or Authorized Project Designee and ARB or the Offset Project Registry for each offset project for which it will perform offset verification services. The self-evaluation must contain the information specified in section 95979 (e) for all entities for which it intends to provide offset verification services;
- (3) As part of its conflict of interest self-evaluation submittal under section 95979 (e), the air district shall certify that it will prevent conflicts of interest and resolve potential conflict of interest situations pursuant to its policies and mechanisms submitted under section 95132 (b)(1)(G);
- (4) If an air district hires a subcontractor to provide offset verification services, the air district shall be subject to all of the requirements of section 95979.

2. Protocol Development and Review

Add: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to meet with local air districts and other stakeholders in the next three months to identify protocols that will be evaluated for development by air districts. The Executive Officer will provide timely technical review of draft protocols, take the protocols through the public process, and bring multiple protocols to the Board for consideration as soon as practicable.

3. Multiple Functions

Add § 95989. California Air Pollution Control Districts or Air Quality Management Districts.

California air pollution control districts or air quality management districts shall be approved for multiple roles, which include verification of offset projects or emissions data for mandatory reporting, holding compliance instruments, implementing offset projects that are verified by a third party and approved by CARB, and running a Registry; provided the appropriate training, accreditation or approvals are obtained from CARB pursuant to sections 95132, 95978, 95814 and 95986. Decisions on such approval requests shall be provided in a timely fashion.

4. Reporting Software

Add: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to work collaboratively and in a timely manner with local air districts that have or will develop reporting tools designed to consolidate emission reporting pursuant to §95104(e).

5. Follow Up and On-Going Coordination

Add: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to establish an Advisory Committee with air districts to facilitate their involvement in implementation of this regulation and other AB 32 programs. The Executive Officer is directed to report back to the Board in three months regarding progress for this effort.